

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are pending in this application. Claims 7 and 8 were withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4 and 6 are amended, and claim 9 is added. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration based on the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claim 1 for informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 obviates the rejection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

§ 112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended obviate the § 112 rejections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natori et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0020157) in view of Wu (U.S. Patent 6,393,210); claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natori in view of Wu, and further in view of Cuchiaro et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,225,156); claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Natori in view of Wu, and further in view of Rubey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,846,293). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that these cited references teach or suggest a method of manufacturing a ceramic film as presently claimed. However, Applicants respectfully submit

that neither Natori nor Wu teaches reducing the size of the chamber. Specifically, the currently claimed combination of features accommodates reduction of the size of the chamber and increase in the temperature rise rate of the treatment target and the pressure rise rate of the gas in the chamber, by preheating the gas before supplying it in the chamber.

Moreover, the present application accommodates reduction in the size of the chamber by providing the heating mechanism outside of the chamber. Contrarily, Wu suggests an arrangement whereby the heating mechanism is provided within the chamber—in an arrangement directly contrarily to the presently claimed arrangement and one that would make it impossible to accommodate the reduction in chamber size as presently claimed.

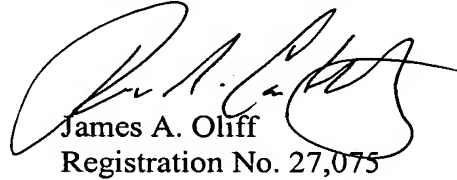
With regard to Rubey, the section asserts that Rubey teaches the feature of claim 5, specifically, the method wherein pressure of gas in the chamber is increased to the predetermined pressure of two atmospheres or more within sixty seconds. However, Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Rubey, which regard a wholly separate field of endeavor. Specifically, Rubey concerns a gas chromatographic device. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Natori, either alone or in combination with Wu or Rubey, fails to teach or suggest the currently claimed combination of features. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RAC/jfb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 24, 2008

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